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7 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : The CS Historical Program,
Status and Plans

1. Accomplishments: During the past six months seven historical papers were published in the Clandestine Service Historical Paper (CSHP) series. This involved 1,112 pages of text, not counting forewords, prefaces, or appendixes. This total also does not take into account two long histories on which final typing is almost completed. Our typing staff was engaged to full capacity during the period.

2. Since 1 January 1972 seven additional draft histories have been submitted by the components for publication. As of 30 June, 17 completed histories were held in the staff and were being reviewed and edited, awaiting typing, or in final typing for publication.

3. Since the inception of the CS historical program in 1964, 177 historical papers have been published in the CSHP series. Notable contributions have been made by the Far East Division with 36 papers, the Africa Division with 24 papers, the European Division with 23, and the Special Operations Division with 19. Of those components with a sizable number of histories scheduled, two have completed their programs: the Soviet Bloc Division with 18 and the Information Services Division (or RID) with 10 histories.

4. Prospects and Plans: As anticipated, recent personnel ceilings and budget cuts have resulted in a further reduction in the number of writers assigned to the program. At the end of FY 1972, 21 full-time and 14 part-time writers were active in the program. Three full-time writers retired on 30 June reducing the carry-over into FY 1973 to 18 full-time and 14 part-time writers. Further but unpredictable attrition is expected during the months ahead.

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5. It is recommended that the CS historical program proceed along the following lines beginning in FY 1973:

a. Those papers in the 1970-72 program nearing completion, or on which substantial research and writing have been done, will be carried through to publication to the extent possible.

b. Projected papers for which there are no writers, on which little progress has been made, or which have not been started will generally be dropped from the CS program.

c. In the future, developments in the CS and CS components and stations will be recorded in annual reports. The reporting units will be urged to prepare summary accounts, chronologies, and lists of key documents to cover the periods before the recently initiated annual reporting system.

d. Those area divisions desiring to continue preparation of station histories will be encouraged to do so, and the staff will provide guidance and research support. Acceptable drafts will be published in the CSHP series.

e. A limited number of analytical histories covering major CS activities and operations will be scheduled in the forthcoming CS historical program. The CS Historical Board is in the process of reviewing lists of proposed titles to identify those which fall within the Executive Director's guidelines and which are of primary CS interest. Qualified writers will be engaged or assigned to prepare these histories to the extent available and as other CS priorities permit.

f. The CS will provide research and writing support to preparation of overall Agency histories, consistent with the CS role in the subject matter of such histories.

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g. Final typing and publication of completed histories are being facilitated by employment of an additional typist and utilization of IBM MT/ST equipment which minimizes re-typing and re-proofing of final drafts.

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CS Historical Officer

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